AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

48
MAR

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A Note from the Publisher

This issue I would like to let you in on a little secret. The secret is this - there is a Cerebus Fan Club, and it's alive and kicking!!!!

Now - There are probably about 200 of you for whom this is not news. But considering the fact that there are **at least** another 1,200 people who aren't members, I figure I should let them in on this.

Now - if your objection is that you've heard all kinds of nasty rumors about there being no newsletter since last May, that was no rumor. But there have been a few changes the last month. The major one is that I have taken over running the fan club. So, those people who are members already, have received their personally autographed posters of our 1982 US Tour as a thank-you for being so patient. The newsletter (# 6) will feature some glimpses at the evolution of Astoria in a new regular feature that will showcase pages from Dave's notebook (which he uses to write the issues). We will continue to feature art and articles by fans, as well as including as many pieces from Dave as we can. We should be able to do more, as it is being put together here in Kitchener.

For those of you who want more of Cerebus than just the comic-I have the following announcement to make: The official Cerebus buttons are now available. These buttons were made directly from artwork that Dave provided. There are five different designs, 2 of Cerebus and one each of Elrod, the McGrew Bros and Moon Roach. They are 75¢ (US) each or $3.00 for the set. In Canada they are 95¢ each or $3.70 per set.You can get them from Comix and Books Unlimited, 205B Mansfield Road, Nottingham, England, NG1 3FS. The last time I heard from them, they were hoping to wholesale to Bud Plant in California, so maybe you can try ordering from them (address in black box).

See you next issue!

Deni

CONVENTIONS

COMIX FAIR
July 29, 30, 31, 1983
Houston, Texas

ALL-STAR CONVENTION
April 9 - 10, 1983
Rochester, New York
(Dave will be doing a Moon Roach story with Dill Sienkiewicz at this Con)

MAPLECON S
July 15, 16, 17, 1983
Carleton University
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

SUBSCRIPTIONS

As of now, Aardvark-Vanaheim will be handling subscriptions and single issue orders on all Aardvark-Vanaheim books.

One year subscription of Cerebus $25.00 U.S./$22.00 Cdn., includes postage & handling. More information next issue.

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CEREBUS

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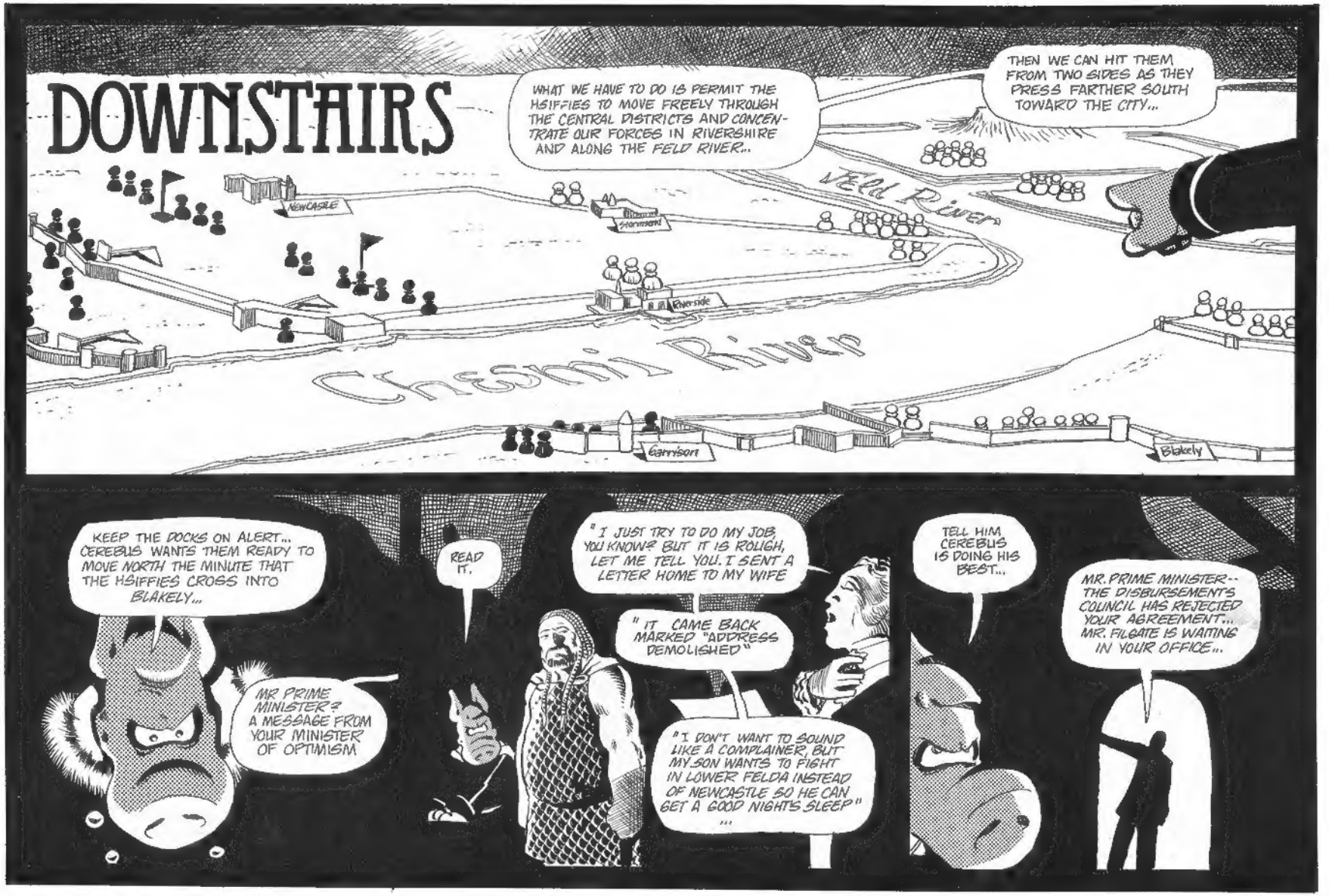
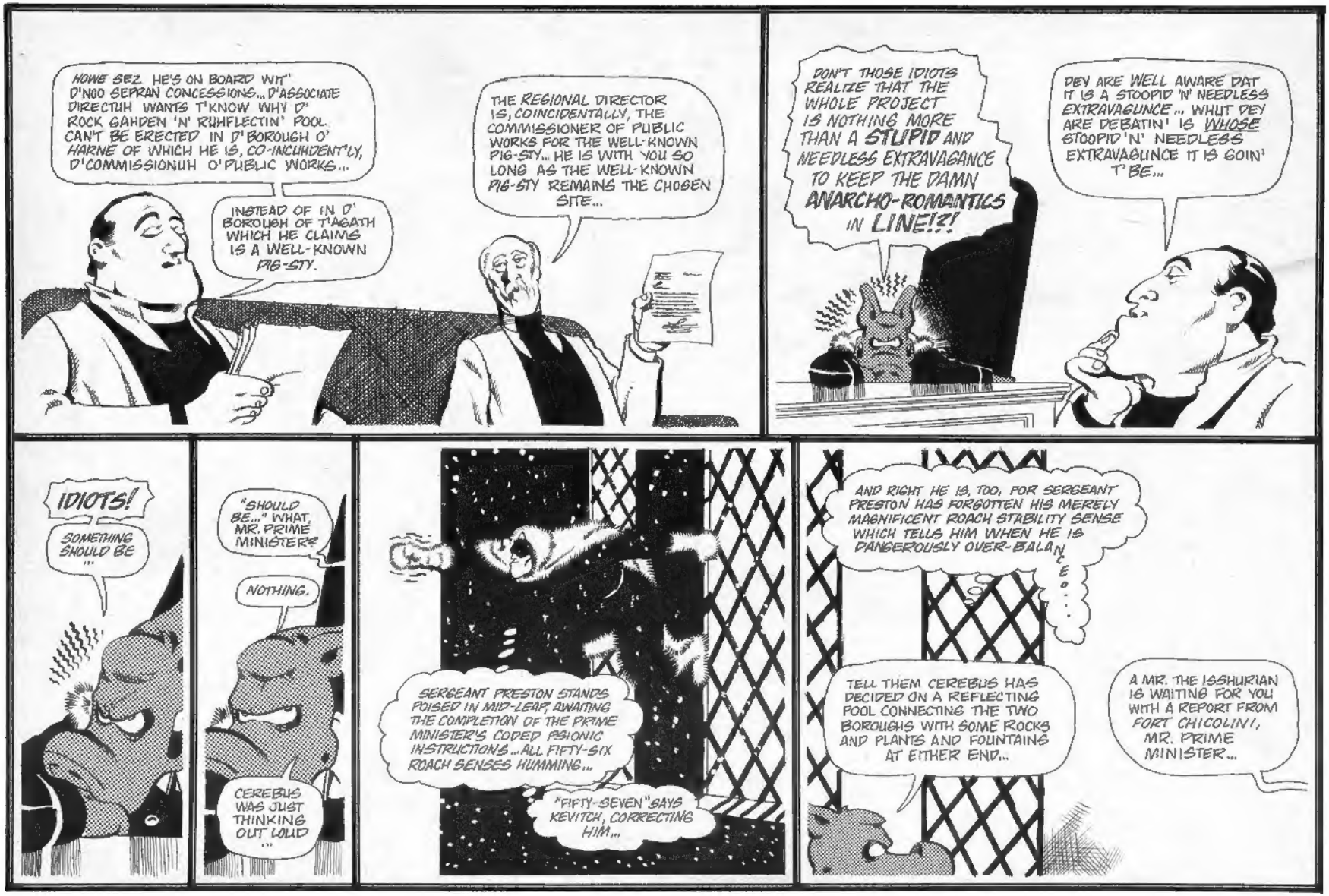
CEREBUS' SIX CRISES

THE DISBURSEMENTS COUNCIL SEEMS QUITE ADAMANT ON THE ISSUE OF THE INVASION OF NEW SEPRA... THEY WON'T AUTHORIZE ANOTHER HALF-BIT WITHOUT YOUR PERSONAL ASSURANCES THAT THE SEPRAN EMPIRE WILL NOT BE DRAWN INTO THE CONFLICT...
FINE.
D'FINAL CLAUSE STATES DAT IF WE ARE FORCED T' WIT'DRAW FRUM NOO SEPRA, ANY COSTS ABOVE DOSE CARRENTLY ON D' BOOKS WOULD MUST NEEDS BE DEDUCTED FRUM D' PROIME MINISTUH'S HOUSEHOLD EXPENSES F'D'NEXT EIGHTY-NOINE YEARS.
FINE.
AS A REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE ANARCHO-ROMANTICS, I AM UNABLE TO SUPPORT THIS AGREEMENT WITHOUT SOME GUARANTEE THAT MONIES SEIZED IN THE INVASION WOULD BE USED FOR MUCH NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS SET FORWARD IN OUR MANIFESTO OF...
OKAY. OKAY.
ADD A CLAUSE SPECIFYING THAT FOUR PER CENT OF ALL ASSETS SEIZED ARE TO BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A PEOPLE'S ROCK GARDEN AND REFLECTING POOL IN THE LOWER CITY...
MR. PRIME MINISTER? THE CASUALTY FIGURES FROM GARRISON JUST ARRIVED IN THE WAR ROOM...

CRISIS Nº FOUR UPSTAIRS


DOWNSTAIRS
WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS PERMIT THE HSIFFIES TO MOVE FREELY THROUGH THE CENTRAL DISTRICTS AND CONCENTRATE OUR FORCES IN RIVERSHIRE AND ALONG THE FELD RIVER...
THEN WE CAN HIT THEM FROM TWO SIDES AS THEY PRESS FARTHER SOUTH TOWARD THE CITY...
NEWCASTLE
Stormont
Riverside
Garrison
Blakely
Chesmin River
Feld River
KEEP THE DOCKS ON ALERT... CEREBUS WANTS THEM READY TO MOVE NORTH THE MINUTE THAT THE HSIFFIES CROSS INTO BLAKELY...
MR PRIME MINISTER? A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER OF OPTIMISM
READ IT.
"I JUST TRY TO DO MY JOB, YOU KNOW? BUT IT IS ROUGH, LET ME TELL YOU. I SENT A LETTER HOME TO MY WIFE
"IT CAME BACK MARKED "ADDRESS DEMOLISHED"
"I DON'T WANT TO SOUND LIKE A COMPLAINER, BUT MY SON WANTS TO FIGHT IN LOWER FELDA INSTEAD OF NEWCASTLE SO HE CAN GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP"
...
TELL HIM CEREBUS IS DOING HIS BEST...
MR. PRIME MINISTER-- THE DISBURSEMENTS COUNCIL HAS REJECTED YOUR AGREEMENT... MR. FILGATE IS WAITING IN YOUR OFFICE...


HOWE SEZ HE'S ON BOARD WIT' D'NOO SEPRAN CONCESSIONS... D'ASSOCIATE DIRECTUH WANTS T'KNOW WHY D' ROCK GAHDEN 'N' RUHFLECTIN' POOL CAN'T BE ERECTED IN D'BOROUGH O' HAIRNE OF WHICH HE IS, CO-INCUHDENT'LY, D'COMMISSIONUH O'PUBLIC WORKS...
INSTEAD OF IN D' BOROUGH OF T'AGATH WHICH HE CLAIMS IS A WELL-KNOWN PIG-STY.
THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR IS, COINCIDENTALLY, THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR THE WELL-KNOWN PIG-STY... HE IS WITH YOU SO LONG AS THE WELL-KNOWN PIG-STY REMAINS THE CHOSEN SITE...
DON'T THOSE IDIOTS REALIZE THAT THE WHOLE PROJECT IS NOTHING MORE THAN A STUPID AND NEEDLESS EXTRAVAGANCE TO KEEP THE DAMN ANARCHO-ROMANTICS IN LINE!?!
DEY ARE WELL AWARE DAT IT IS A STOOPID 'N' NEEDLESS EXTRAVAGUNCE... WHUT DEY ARE DEBATIN' IS WHOSE STOOPID 'N' NEEDLESS EXTRAVAGUNCE IT IS GOIN' T' BE...
IDIOTS!
SOMETHING SHOULD BE ...
"SHOULD BE..." WHAT, MR. PRIME MINISTER?
NOTHING.
CEREBUS WAS JUST THINKING OUT LOUD ...
SERGEANT PRESTON STANDS POISED IN MID-LEAP, AWAITING THE COMPLETION OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S CODED PSIONIC INSTRUCTIONS... ALL FIFTY-SIX ROACH SENSES HUMMING...
"FIFTY-SEVEN" SAYS KEVITCH, CORRECTING HIM...
AND RIGHT HE IS, TOO, FOR SERGEANT PRESTON HAS FORGOTTEN HIS MERELY MAGNIFICENT ROACH STABILITY SENSE WHICH TELLS HIM WHEN HE IS DANGEROUSLY OVER-BALANCED...
TELL THEM CEREBUS HAS DECIDED ON A REFLECTING POOL CONNECTING THE TWO BOROUGHS WITH SOME ROCKS AND PLANTS AND FOUNTAINS AT EITHER END...
A MR. THE ISSHURIAN IS WAITING FOR YOU WITH A REPORT FROM FORT CHICOLINI, MR. PRIME MINISTER...

WE HAVE A SMALL PROBLEM ...SOME OF MY MEN WANT TO LEAVE, WORK SOMEPLACE ELSE, INSTEAD OF "SITTING TIGHT" AT CHICOLINI....
CEREBUS IS WORKING ON THE FINANCING FOR A PUSH INTO THE RED MARCHES TO SEIZE THE NEW SEPRAN TREASURY... HOW MUCH WOULD YOU NEED TO BRING IT OFF?
A HALF MILLION, GIVE OR TAKE TEN THOUSAND... MORE IF IT TOOK LONGER THAN TEN DAYS...
FINE.
CEREBUS WILL HAVE THE CASH READY IN A FEW HOURS... YOU CAPTURE THE TREASURY ...IF THERE'S ENOUGH CURRENCY THERE, YOU CAN DIVIDE IT UP AND THEN COME BACK TO HELP US REPEL THE HSIFFY INVASION ...
WHAT IF THERE ISN'T ENOUGH CURRENCY?
THEN YOU'RE ALL FREE TO GO ON YOUR MERRY WAY...
AND CEREBUS WILL BE THE ONE WITH THE SMALL PROBLEM.

IS DIS SOME KINDA JOKE, HARGRAVES?
MOST ASSUREDLY NOT, MR. FILGATE. IT IS A SIMPLE REJECTION OF THE REVISED AGREEMENT BY THE ANARCHO-ROMANTIC STEERING COMMITEE...
IT IS OUR CONSIDERED OPINION THAT THE TWO ROCK GARDENS AND ADJOINING REFLECTING POOL ARE NOT SUFFICIENT COMPENSATION. WE REQUIRE A MORE MEANINGFUL AND IMPORTANT ROLE FOR OUR MOVEMENT IN THIS ADMINISTRATION ...
AND WHAT MEANINGFUL AND IMPORTANT ROLE DO YOU FORESEE FOR A BUNCH OF PERFUMED, POSTURING...
NOW, BLAKELY-- HE'S GOT A GOOD POINT ...
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO BUY HIS SUPPORT WITH MINOR CONCESSIONS ...
AS LONG AS HE'S HERE, WE SHOULD BE USING HIS ABILITIES AND SKILLS TO THEIR BEST ADVANTAGE
ASTORIA?
YES, MR. PRIME MINISTER ...
NOTIFY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE THAT OUR FRONT LINE OF INVASION TROOPS INTO NEW SEPRA WILL BE ANARCHO-ROMANTICS
...HAND-PICKED AND LED BY MR. HARGRAVES HERE ...
...BUT...
...BUT...
I SIMPLY MUST TELL THE LADS IN THE WAR ROOM...THEY HAVEN'T HAD A GOOD LAUGH IN WEEKS...

BUT--YOU CAN'T
I MEAN I CAN'T
I MEAN
THERE MUST BE SOME OTHER WAY!
WELL...
IT WOULD MEAN COMPROMISING THE INTEGRITY OF YOUR MOVEMENT ...
BUT IF YOU COULD SEE YOUR WAY CLEAR TO SIGNING THE REVISED AGREEMENT ...
WHERE DO I SIGN?
WHERE?!
MM. NO.
CEREBUS CAN'T LET YOU BETRAY YOUR MOVEMENT.
YOU'D BE THROWING AWAY YOUR CAREER...
PLEASE LET ME! I WANT TO!
HOWEVER. IF YOU COULD CONVERT THE MOVEMENT TO CEREBUS' SIDE
SAY--A HUNDRED OF THEM?
EACH WILLING TO PAY THE TEN THOUSAND CROWN JOINER FEE...
TEN THOUSAND CROWNS?
WHO WOULD BE WILLING TO PART WITH THAT MUCH MONEY?!
WHY--ANYONE WHO DOESN'T WANT TO JOIN YOU ON THE FRONT LINES, OF COURSE
NO RUSH ...
ANYTIME BEFORE MIDNIGHT TOMORROW WILL BE FINE ...

WE'LL HAVE A RELAY OF MESSENGERS IN PLACE AS FAR AS CHICOLINI -- IT'LL BE YOUR JOB TO KEEP A LINE OF COMMUNICATION OPEN THROUGHOUT THE ATTACK...
AS SOON AS YOU TAKE THE TREASURY, CEREBUS NEEDS TO KNOW HOW...
SO!
IF TISN'T THE PRIMINISTER 'MSELF... S'THIS'S WHERE YOU DO Y'R MILILITARY PLANNING...
I HOPE YOU'RE NOT PLANNING T'SPEND 'NUTHER MILLION CROWNS CAUSE Y'AIN'T GETT'N'IT ...
YEWW THINK YEWWR SOOO SMART--
WELL, Y'R NOT-- I TALKED T'EVERY ANTARCHTIC ROMANO I KNEW 'N' EVEN SOME I DINT!
AND GUESS WHUT? THEY'RE AAALLL BROKE
NOT ONE OF'M COULD GIMME A THOUS'N'CROWNS... NOT EVEN'A ONES INNA BIG HOUSES....
Y'R WHOLE STINKY BIG OUTHOUSE OF A STINKY CITY-STATE IS BROKE
AND D'YEW KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, MINISTER PRIME MISTER? D'YEW? WELL'LL TELLYEW...

IT MEANS TH'T T'MORROW I LEAD TH' INVASION INNA NEW SEPRA... WE SHALL THROW 'RSELVES 'PON TH' PIDDLESS FOE
RENT LIMBERUM LIMB WE SHALL DIE IN TH' NAME 'F' OUR GLOOORIOUS MOVEMENT
YEWERE RIGHT! TH'TIME'S COME F'RACTION!
DANGER!
DEATH!
TONIGHT WE'DRINK DEEP TH'SWEET WINE OF LIFE F'T'MORROW WE DIE
I WOULON' SIGN Y'LOUSY 'GREEMENT IF Y'BEGGED ME! Y'HEAR ME, Y'L'IL SOD?... TH' MAON'SS OF BATTLE 'SUPON ME—I'VE B'COME A WILD BEAST!! TEARIN' OFF GREAT CHUNKS O' LIFE...HOV'RIN' AT THE VERY EDGE O' THE ABYSS! UNTAMED! TH' THIN VENEER O' CIVILISATION STRIP'DAWAY
SIP
OH THANK YEW THANK YEW MINISTER PRIME MISTER THANK YEW!!
SKRTCHA SKRTCHA
THANK YEW-THANK YEW THANK YEW THANK YEW
DON'T ASK.

THIS IS THE WAR ROOM, BLAKELY...
WITH ALL OF CEREBUS' COMMANDERS IN THE FIELD, WE NEED YOU TO BE HERE AT ALL TIMES
ALL INCOMING MESSAGES ARE IN CODE... THE MASTER CODE IS LOCKED IN THIS DRAWER... ONLY YOU AND CEREBUS WILL HAVE KEYS
YOU'RE TO DECODE ANY MESSAGE IMMEDIATELY AND SEND A COPY TO MY OFFICE..
IF IT DESCRIBES ANY CHANGE IN TROOP POSITION
YOU'RE TO MAKE THE APPROPRIATE CHANGES ON THE SITUATION BOARD...
THE WHITE MARKERS ARE OURS...EACH ONE DENOTES FIVE HUNDRED MEN
EACH BLACK MARKER DENOTES APPROXIMATELY SEVEN HUNDRED HSIFFIES
THE BROWN ONES ARE THE MERCENARIES INVADING NEW SEPRA..
LOOKING AT THE BOARD, NOW BLAKELY FOR THE FIRST TIME, CAN YOU SEE ANY-THING I MIGHT HAVE OVERLOOKED?
AS LONG AS YOU'RE ASKING MR. PRIME MINISTER ...THERE IS ONE THING
THE ENTIRE ROOM IS ABSOLUTELY FILTHY!
EVERY INCH OF SURFACE IS COVERED WITH A LAYER OF DUST..
YOU, THERE! YES, BOY, YOU! RUN AND FETCH THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEKEEPING STAFF...
TELL HIM THE PRIME MINISTER'S SENIOR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR WANTS A WORD WITH HIM

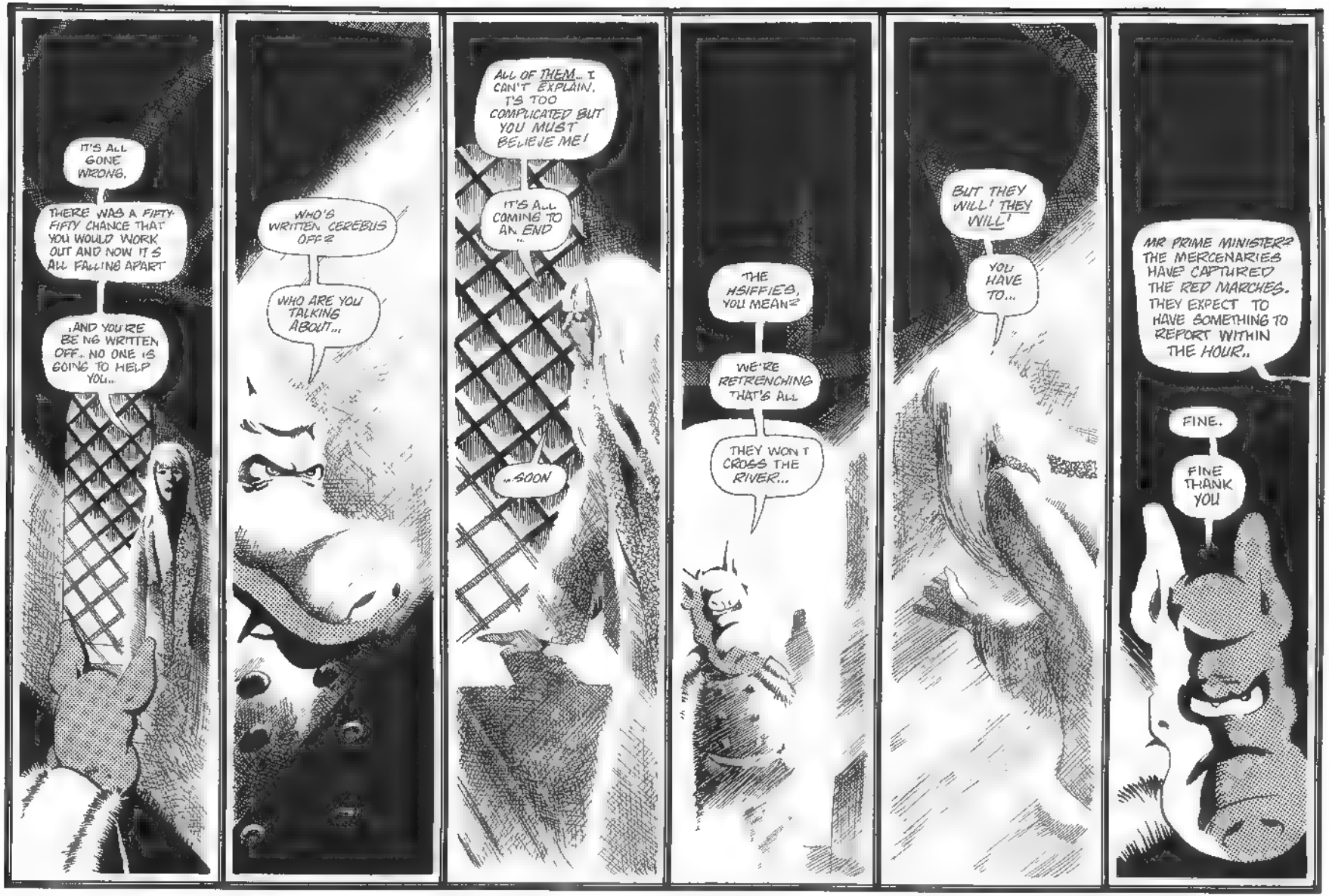
LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY FOUND A JOB FOR OLD BLAKELY HE CAN HANDLE -- THE END OF HIS FIRST DAY IN THE WAR ROOM AND CEREBUS HASN'T HEARD FROM HIM
MR PRIME MINISTER - OLDCASTLE HAS BEEN CAPTURED... STORM'SEND MANOR IS UNDER SIEGE
RIVERSHIRE'S BEEN TAKEN ... THE NORTHERN PROVINCES ARE EVACUATING SOUTH TO THE RIVER...
THE DISPATCHES ALL CAME IN EARLY THIS MORNING...!
THIS MORNING!?
MR BLAKELY WOULDN'T LET ME BRING THEM TO YOU UNTIL I POLISHED THE WAR ROOM FLOOR...
YOU CAN'T KILL YOUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS ADVISOR. THINK OF THE BAD PUBLICITY

POST NOTICES THAT THE REFUGEES FROM THE NORTHERN PROVINCES ARE TO BE SPLIT UP INTO PRIVATE HOMES
IF WE KEEP THEM TOGETHER, THEY'LL JUST SPREAD PANIC...
D'MAIN BODY OF D'INVADIN' FORCE IS MOVIN' EAST...
SEND A MESSAGE TO LOWER FELDA THAT THE HSIFFIES ARE HEADED FOR THE OESIS... GET THEM TO SEND MILITARY AID.
THERE'S SOME RIOTING IN THE DOCKS AND ALONG THE RIVERFRONT OF THE LOWER CITY...
FIND THE LEADERS AND HAVE THEM EXECUTED ON THE SPOT...
DISBURSE THE REST
D LOWAH FELDANS RUHPYOOZ T'HELP, BUT DEY ARE WILLIN' T'OFFUH YOU P'LITICAL ASSOYLUM IF D'HSIFFIES DECOIDE T'CROSS D' FELD RIVUH...
SWELL
THE DOCKS THREATEN TO CUT ALL TIES WITH THE UPPER CITY IF YOU DON'T RESIGN AND APPOINT FILGATE YOUR SUCCESSOR
"I CANNOT EMPHASIZE TOO STRONGLY THE NEED FOR UNITY IN THIS TIME OF DANGER I DO NOT SEEK, AND IF OFFERED, WILL NOT ACCEPT THE POSITION OF PRIME MINISTER. CEREBUS IS OUR PRIME MINISTER, AND IT IS ONLY WITH ALL OF OUR SUPPORT THAT HE WILL LEAD US TO SURE VICTORY. SINCERELY, EULING S. FILGATE, MINISTER OF FINANCE"
NOW, WHO CAN WE SEND IT TO IN THE DOCKS?
IT HAS TO BE SOMEONE WHO CAN READ
CHEE DAT'S A TOUGHIE

D'MOICENARIES INVADIN NOO SEPRA RAN INTAN AMBUSH.. FORTUNATELY, DEY WAS ONLY OUT-NUMBUHED FIVE TUH ONE SO DEY MANAGED TUH WRAP UP DUH BATTLE OVUH LUNCH
THE DOCK POLICE REPORT ALL QUIET IN THE LOWER CITY
FIVE ANARCHO ROMANTICS DEAD
A DOZEN UNDER ARREST
D'HSIFFIES ON D'UDDAH SIDE O' D'CHESM! HAVE MOVED INTA BLAKELY PROVINCE...
THAT'S OKAY. THE NATIVES WILL DAMP MOP THEM TO DEATH
ALERT THE DOCKS TO START MOVING THEIR FORCES NORTH
HARGRAVES WISHES TO STRONGLY PROTEST THE ARREST AND EXECUTION OF ANARCHO-ROMANTICS
UNLESS IT MEANS HE HAS TO LEAD AN IN-VASION SOMEWHERE, IN WHICH CASE, WHAT-EVER YOU WANT TO DO IS FINE BY HIM.
D'MOICENARIES ARE CLOSIN' IN ON D'RED MAHCHES
D'NOO SEPRAN OUTPOST IS IN SIGHT
SOME PRIESTS IN THE LOWER CITY ARE PREACHING THAT THE END OF THE WORLD IS AT HAND... THEY SAY THE INVASION IS THE WILL OF TARIM
LET THEM PREACH, BUT HAVE THE POLICE KEEP AN EYE ON THEM...
IF ANY OF THEM STARTS TO DEVELOP A LARGER FOLLOWING THAN THE OTHERS, HAVE HIM EXECUTED...
MR. PRIME MINISTER?
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S A MISTRESS JAKA HERE TO SEE YOU...

JAKA?
CEREBUS THOUGHT YOU LEFT ...
I AM LEAVING. TONIGHT
FOR GOOD
YOU DON'T HAVE TO YOU CAN STAY HERE WITH CEREBUS.
I'M LEAVING.
...AND I WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME YOU'RE IN TERRIBLE DANGER HERE
DANGER? OF COURSE CEREBUS IS IN DANGER
..THAT'S CEREBUS' JOB..
MR PRIME MINISTER?
COMMANDERS JOHNS AND HYANNS HAVE ARRIVED WITH THE NORTHERN REFUGEES ...

HAVE THEM WAIT FOR CEREBUS IN THE WAR ROOM.
JAKA..
CEREBUS IS..
WE CAN TRAVEL
LIKE YOU SAID.
THE WALL OF TSI.. THE T'CAPMIN KINGDOMS ...
CEREBUS IS THE PRIME MINISTER ...
CEREBUS HAS TO STAY HERE
NO ONE IS GOING TO COME AND TELL YOU TO TAKE A VACATION!
CAN'T YOU SEE?!
YOU'RE NOT ONE OF THEM!
THEY'RE GOING TO THROW YOU TO THE WOLVES ...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?


IT'S ALL GONE WRONG.
THERE WAS A FIFTY FIFTY CHANCE THAT YOU WOULD WORK OUT AND NOW IT'S ALL FALLING APART
AND YOU'RE BEING WRITTEN OFF.. NO ONE IS GOING TO HELP YOU..
WHO'S WRITTEN CEREBUS OFF?
WHO ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...
ALL OF THEM... I CAN'T EXPLAIN, IT'S TOO COMPLICATED BUT YOU MUST BELIEVE ME!
IT'S ALL COMING TO AN END ..
..SOON
THE HSIFFIES, YOU MEAN?
WE'RE RETRENCHING THAT'S ALL
THEY WON'T CROSS THE RIVER...
BUT THEY WILL! THEY WILL!
YOU HAVE TO...
MR PRIME MINISTER? THE MERCENARIES HAVE CAPTURED THE RED MARCHES. THEY EXPECT TO HAVE SOMETHING TO REPORT WITHIN THE HOUR..
FINE.
FINE THANK YOU

DO YOU DISCUSS YOUR PLANS WITH ASTORIA?
ASTORIA?
WHAT HAS ASTORIA GOT TO DO WITH ALL THIS?
NOTHING
EVERYTHING
DO YOU?
ASTORIA IS CEREBUS' SECRETARY
SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH CEREBUS' PLANS
WHAT DO YOU SUPPOSE SHE WOULD DO IF YOU TOLD HER YOU WERE LEAVING
...REASONING.
OO?
GET A JO■ AS A SECRETARY SOMEWHERE ELSE
I SUPPOSE.
I DON'T KNOW. WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT..
TELL HER YOU'RE LEAVING...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACTUALLY LEAVE...
JUST TELL HER YOU ARE

BUT...
WHY?
YOU'RE NOT MAKING ANY SENSE
BECAUSE I WANT YOU TO LIVE
BECAUSE I WANT TO BE WITH YOU...
I WANT US TO LEAVE...
NOW
I LOVE YOU

MR PRIME MINISTER! THE DOCKS FORCES HAVE SUFFERED A MAJOR DEFEAT IN BLAKELY...
THE HS.FFIES ARE MOVING SOUTH ...
CEREBUS WILL BE THERE IN A MINUTE...
SUCH A WASTE SUCH A...
SO YOU CAN BE THERE WHEN THEY BREAK THE DOORS DOWN...

SO NO ONE WILL CALL YOU A COWARD...
STOP IT
SO YOU CAN BE IN YOUR OFFICE WHEN THEY COME FOR YOU
STOP IT, JAKA!
SO YOU CAN BE THERE TO...
STOP IT!
JAKA.
DON'T APOLOGIZE..
I UNDERSTAND...
BUT
I HAVE TO LEAVE...
I'M SORRY...

MR PRIME MINISTER? THE MERCENARY-
EXCUSE ME
MR PRIME MINISTER?
WHAT
THE MERCENARIES HAVE SENT A FINAL MESSAGE FROM THE RED MARCHES ..THE OUTPOST WAS EMPTY ..
THEY... WISH YOU GOOD LUCK, SIR...

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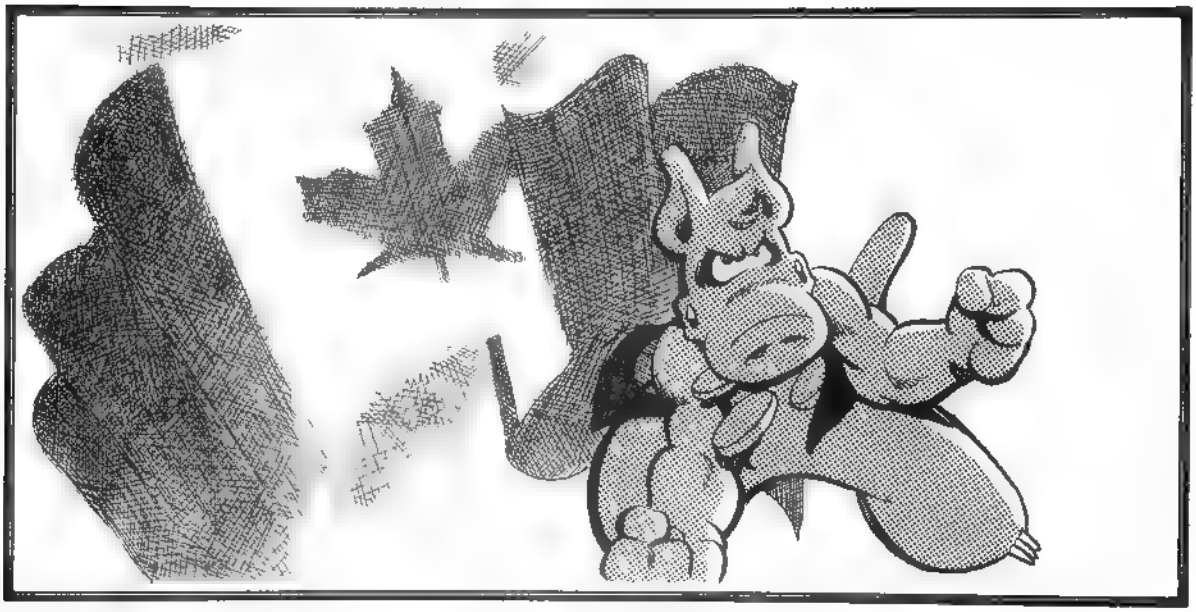

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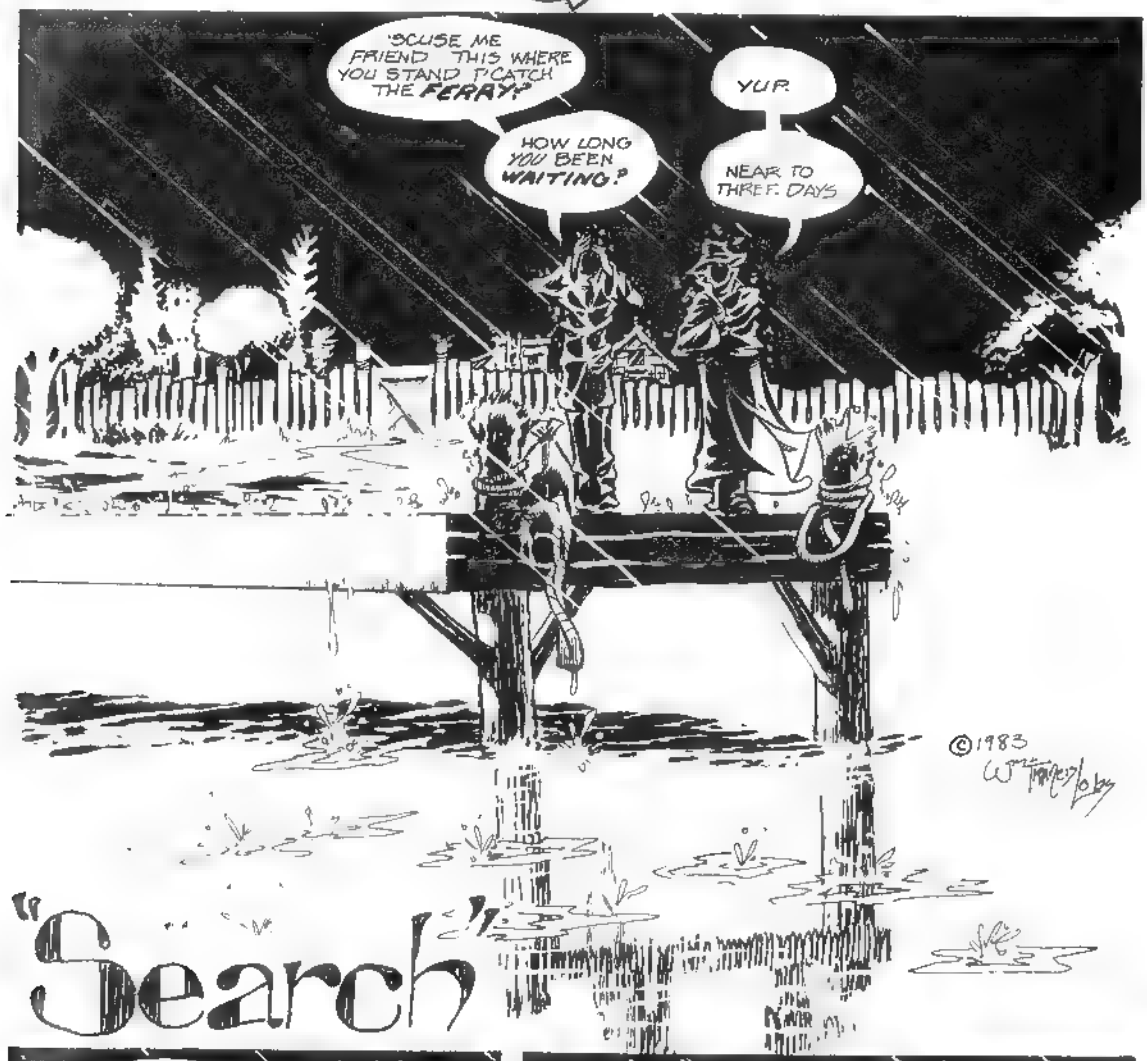
'SCUSE ME FRIEND THIS WHERE YOU STAND T'CATCH THE FERRY?
HOW LONG YOU BEEN WAITING?
YUP.
NEAR TO THREE DAYS
©1983

"Search"

Dammit!
FRIEND, I JEST GOTTA GET ON THAT FLATBOAT
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY..

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CAN'T SAY AS I HAVE.

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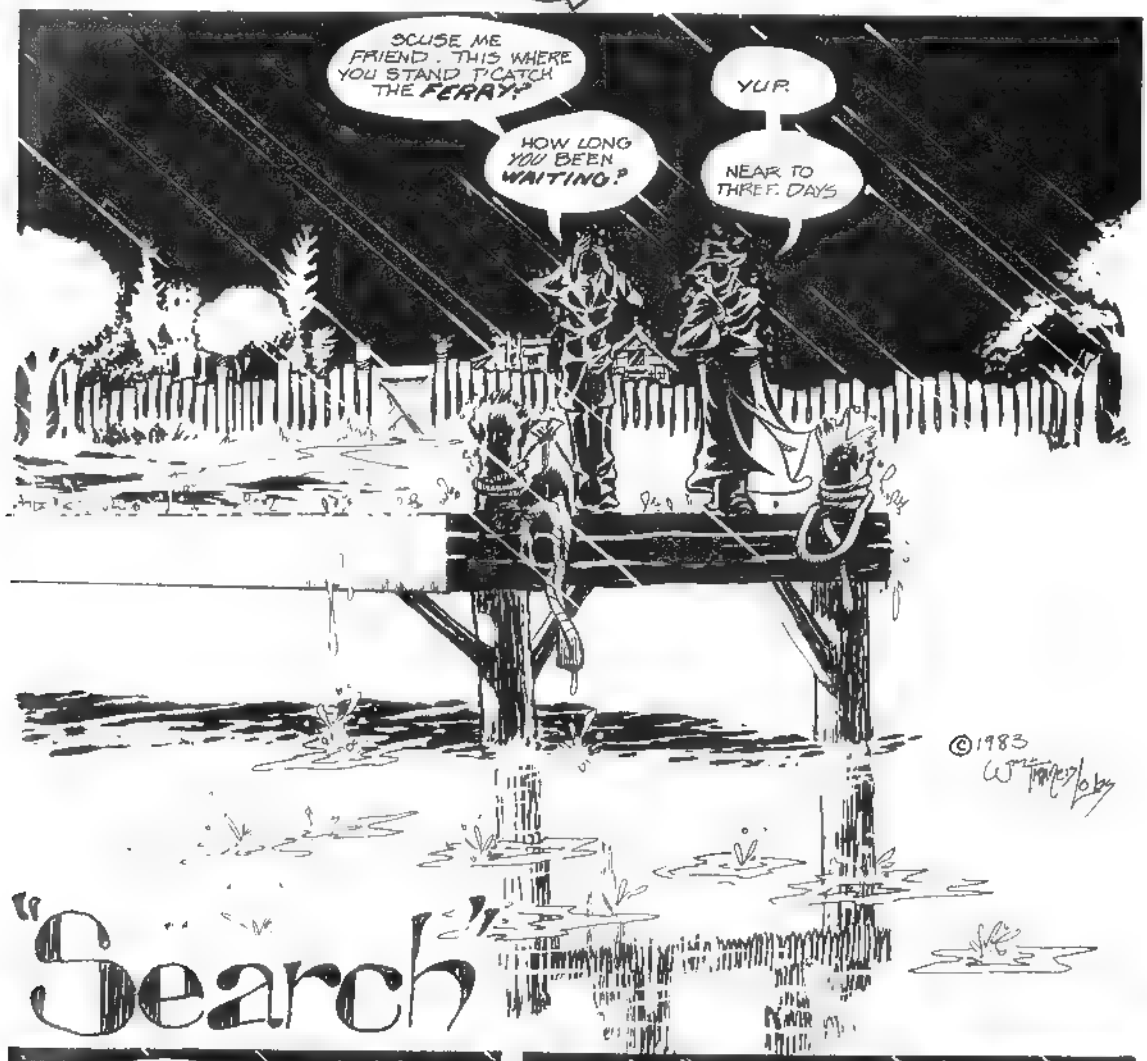
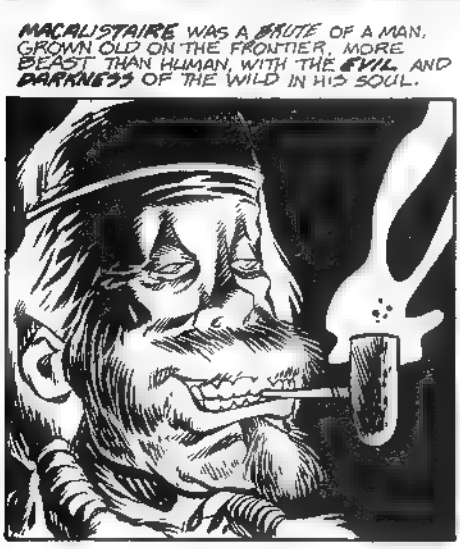


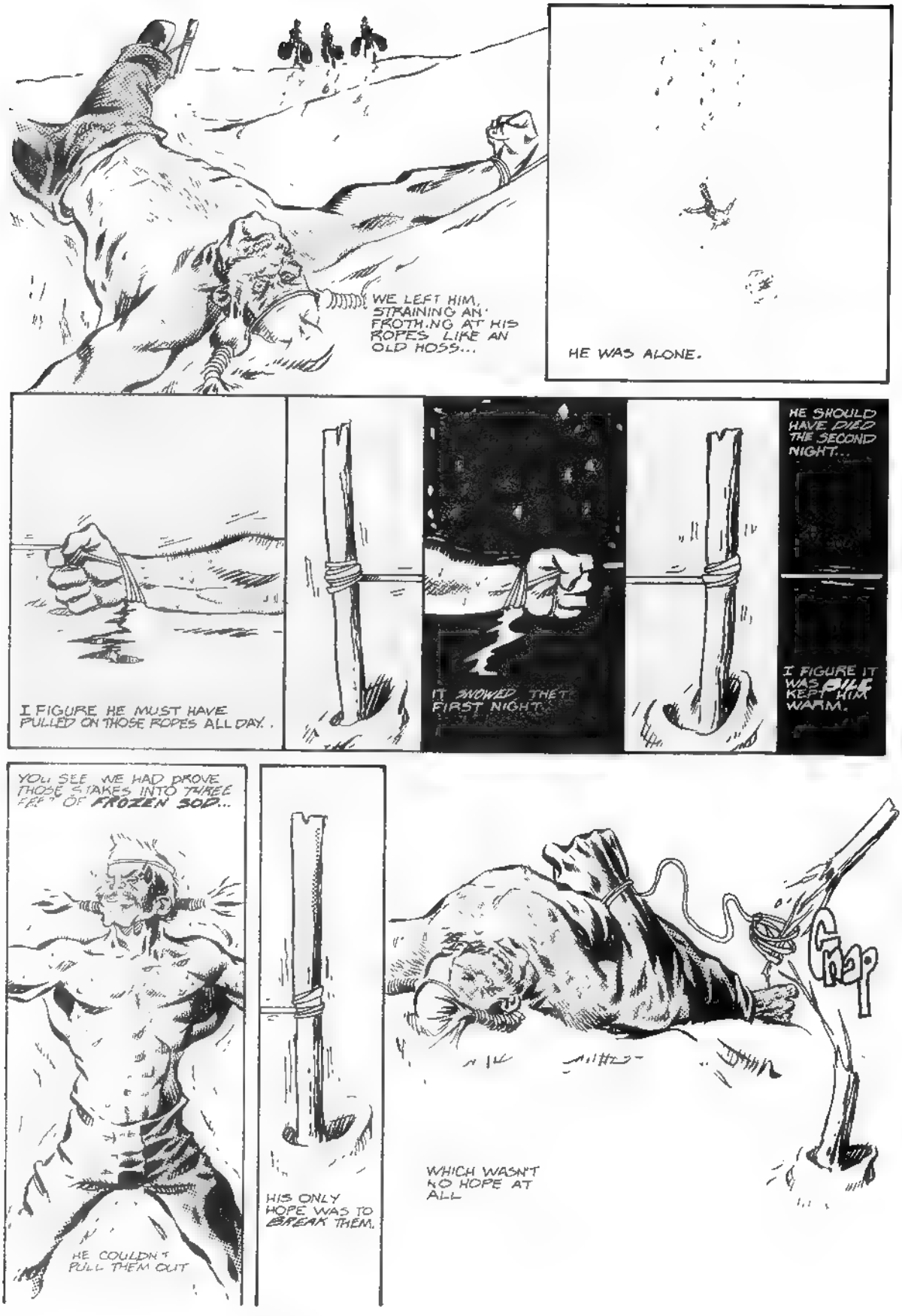
"Search"

"THEN I'LL TELL YOU THO IT AIN'T A PRETTY TALE. WE WAS THREE LAST WINTER. COONER SMITH, HOOK ROOS AN' ME-COUGAR-CHEEK TIM. OUTA GOLD, OUTA LUCK, STARVING, AND MI'SRABLE COLD
" TILL, BY FATE, WE STUMBLED ON MACALISTAIRE'S CAMP, WITH BEAVER PELTS DOTTING THE SNOW AND A WARM FIRE BECKONING.. "


MACALISTAIRE WAS A BRUTE OF A MAN, GROWN OLD ON THE FRONTIER, MORE BEAST THAN HUMAN, WITH THE EVIL AND DARKNESS OF THE WILD IN HIS SOUL.

COURSE, HE'D BEEN TRAPPIN' THOSE FURS THROUGH A HARD WINTER, SO IT TOOK SOME CONVINCIN' FOR HIM T'SHARE. HE BIT OFF HOOK'S EAR AN' BROKE COONER'S THUMB. SECH UNCIVILIZED MEN ARE WORSE THAN INJUNS!"

"BUT REASON AN' GOODWILL TRIUMPHED. WE RETROVED HIS KIT BAG AN' GEEGAWS AN' DIVIDED UP HIS FURS...
"...HIM WE STAKED TO THE SNOW. DESPITE HIS CURSING AND BALEFUL LOOKS, TO DIE OF FROSTBITE AN' EXPOSURE. WE FIGURED IT WAS TH' LEAST WE COULD DO FOR HIM "


WE LEFT HIM, STRAINING AN' FROTH.NG AT HIS ROPES LIKE AN OLD HOSS...
HE WAS ALONE.
I FIGURE HE MUST HAVE PULLED ON THOSE ROPES ALL DAY..
IT SNOWED THET FIRST NIGHT.
HE SHOULD HAVE DIED THE SECOND NIGHT..
I FIGURE IT WAS PILE KEPT HIM WARM.
YOU SEE WE HAD DROVE THOSE STAKES INTO THREE FEE" OF FROZEN SOD..
HE COULDN'T PULL THEM OUT
HIS ONLY HOPE WAS TO BREAK THEM.
Crap
WHICH WASN'T NO HOPE AT ALL

to be continued next issue

Starting in March - like a Pig on Ice.
JAY LOOKIT THIS MACALISTAIRE... YER OWN FLOPPY PAPER BOOK BI-MONTHLY FROM AARDVARK-VANAHEIM. IT'S CALLED JOURNEY.. ONLY I'M NOT IN THIS ISSUE! PIFFLE!
BLACK HIDEOUS SQUAMISH FANTASIES PEOPLE MUST BUY THIS BOOK!
FOLKS'LL DO WHAT THEY WANT. THEY GEN'R'LY DO.
JOURNEY
A WOLVERINE MACALISTAIRE ADVENTURE!
EH? $1.60 CAN. $1.40 U.S.
IT EES A STEAL!
DEATH'E! HEH HEH DEATH,E!

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C'
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni -

After well over 10 000 comics read, I tend to be very choosy these days. **Cerebus** is far and away my favorite book

When I become fond of something, I usually pick up everything I can find related to it. Like in the case of recording artists, I'll pick up promotional records and posters. The same applies to Cerebus. And you've been very obliging, by providing me with lots of additional things to collect. Posters, portfolios, stuffed toys, original art, fan club material, game cards, etc. I can't get enough of this stuff. I'm looking forward to the color portfolio and the "Cerebus Companion" book.

I'd like to suggest a couple of other items you might consider. One is a Cerebus Big-Little Book. No doubt you've seen Joe Wehrle's **Cauliflower Catnip** book. I'd love to see Cerebus in one. Maybe **Neil the Horse** would be even a better choice for one.

Second is a set of rubber stamps featuring characters from **Cerebus**. A lot of the Underground artists have had stamps made of their characters. Anyway. Rubber Stamps are a lot of fun and will get Cerebus' image all over the place.

Give it some thought. Since you handle the printing of the book and most printers also handle rubber stamps as a business sideline, you can check it out first hand.

Best,

Charles Lawrence
Box 27
FALKLAND, NC., 27827

We are trying to be very careful about what merchandise we put on the market and to be quite honest, I'm not crazy about doing either rubber stamps or a Big Little Book. Please try to remember that while there are a number of fans like yourself who "Can't get enough of this stuff", a large part of Cerebus' readership is made up of "Nuke E.T." "people.... largely because of the crass exploitation that such "products" represent to them. We are also leaning towards more adult themes in our limited merchandising where possible. We're considering Cerebus beer steins for later this year, as an example. Anyone wishing to propose Cerebus "goodies" please feel free, but be forewarned that I do not see the "goodies" as a major part of our operation.

Dear Deni and Dave,

Well, it most certainly took me long enough to finally catch on to CEREBUS. Honestly, with so very much good work being put forth from independent publishers these days, I didn't start buying and reading CEREBUS until #23. **Now** I'm a 'hooked' fan and have pestered my local specialty shop to death for back issues, a deck of DEALER'S DIAMONDBACK, and the SWORDS collections!

Aside from the stories and art I most like the fan and pro pictures you publish from time to time and would like to thank you for printing a recent shot of Barry Smith (since he's one of my all time favorite artists). I'd like to see many more photos as time goes by. Was your art style influenced quite a bit by the late Vaughn Bode? I've noticed similiar drawing structure in the wide legs and pearshaped body on CEREBUS, that I use on my own cartoon-type characters and I know that Bode's lizard drawings were the main cause for it.

Continuous luck with CEREBUS.

Sincerely

David Puckett
P.O. Box 239,
Cave City, Kentucky, 42127

It seems odd to me that after five years of doing Cerebus it is only in the last few months that I've been asked (almost constantly) if Bode was a major influence on my work. I met Vaughn Bode briefly at a Toronto Cosmicon in the mid 1970's and asked if he would be willing to do an interview. He declined which is just as well since I had only a handful of tedious "fan-boy" questions prepared, like "How did you come up with Cheech Wizard?" I did see a performance of his 'Cartoon Concert' at that con. Aside from being disappointed that Cheech's voice was that of W.C. Fields (I had pictured it as Leo Gorcey) I was very very impressed. When I discovered in later years that all of his stories took place on a planet he had conceived down to very minute detail I was even more impressed. As the first person to plan his fictitious cartoon world so thoroughly, he is indeed a major influence. On the drawing side, no. I knew a lot of guys who went through a phase of swiping Bode's drawing style, but it was his writing that influenced me far more. I consider his underground "The Man" a hands down classic.

Dear Dave

You know what I'd like to see? I'd like to see Commander Krull pass through, still dictating his memoirs, and get into a conversation with the Moon Roach, still having Kevitch narrating his adventures. I can just see Cerebus's expression as his face disappears behind a cloud of word balloons.

Lord Julius's nemesis has finally appeared in the person of Duke Leonardi. Classically the Chico character was one of only two people in the world who could get the better of the Groucho character, simply by being so stupid that not even Groucho's verbal manipulations could alter his mind-set. Once he gets an idea, there is no shifting it. Remember this. "You got a brother? No? How 'bout a sister? Well, you better come with us, then. Your sister, she's a very sick man."?

I can hardly wait until Adolphus, the mute wizard or godling shows up. He'd have to be one or the other in order to do such things as pull anything from his pockets on demand (such as a steaming cup of coffee and the candle already lit and burning at both ends in **Horse Feathers**). When Adolphus and Leonardi get together Lord Julius can kiss his plans goodbye. Anyone else, he could handle, but those two.

(There might also be some possible motivation for Adolphus wanting to put a stop to Lord Julius doings. As I understand it, Lord Julius introduced the idea of using a massive, chaotic bureaucracy and massive national debts as a political tool. This is responsible for the changes in everyday life that were referred to in Cerebus #11 by the Roach's former secret identity. These changes, in turn, are making magic less and less favored, since it's 'bad business.' So carefree and magical a being as the Harpo character could hardly be expected to ignore such goings-on.)

Of course, when all three are confronted with the kind of stuffy narrow-mindedness that usually pervades upper-crust society, they wind up on the same side, more or less. Incidentally, have you noticed how much Bran Mac Muffin looks like Zeppo Marx?

And of course I haven't forgotten that tarot reading we overheard in #20, about Cerebus being a random factor with immense disruptive capabilities. He seems to be fulfilling that description here.

And finally, what's with Astoria? She doesn't seem to mind any of the radical things Cerebus has done. Don't they interfere with her plans even one little bit? And what about her

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C'
KITCHENER, ONTARIO
N2G 4R2

connections to the Eye in the Pyramid? Is she one of them a double agent, a free agent, a closet Cirinist, a Discordian, or what-all? I don't expect answers to all of these right away but I would like to know a bit more of **why** she is helping Cerebus to do whatever he wants (and don't give us that "it furthers her own plans" runaround we already **know** that I want to know **how**) Who knows? Maybe, in issue #300, it will turn out that she is really an avatar of the goddess Discordia, and has also appeared to him in the guise of the Regency Elf and other characters we haven't met yet in order to guide him through various areas of society that needed disrupting (Now just watch, people -- ten bucks says he won t even give me credit)

Hoping this finds you in time for Knight St Rupert s Vis ting Day, I am

John S Olson
806 W University Pkwy ,
Baltimore, Md

Adolphus? Adolph was the boys' father, John Harpo's real name was Arthur You were the first one to notice that Bran's High Society look was intended to look like Zeppo though Two points

It would be very difficult to explain what Astoria is up to and why she is doing what she is doing because it is the result of three major opposing forces that have not been addressed properly Suffice to say, things are not going completely her way (although it looks like it sometimes) There is a lot of action behind the scenes, causing major figures to act react, and act on the reaction

Believe me, if it turns out she's an avatar of the goddess Discordia, I'll run your name in 72 pt Baskerville Old-face on that issue s cover

Dear Dave and Deni,

It really gets my goat (no relation to Lord Julius') when people write in to you and ask when Cerebus is going to get away from this Prime Minister business, and go back to killing people for a living I find it especially distressing when you consider all the fatalities in current Marvel and DC fare I decided to direct some of my displeasure in a more positive direction, and I came up with the enclosed drawing

Respectfully

Greg Litchfield
132 Boston Ave #I
W Somerv.le Ma , 02144

CEREBUS IS SURROUNDED BY A MOB OF BLOOD-THIRSTY FANS
DEATH
KILL KILL
WHEN ARE WE GONNA SEE SOMEONE?
YEA WE WANT BLOOD
ALL RIGHT, WHO WANTS TO BE THE FIRST TO FALL BY CEREBUS' SWORD?
PLEASE CHOOSE ME FIRST
NO, ME ME ME!
MAYBE IT WAS TIME FOR CEREBUS TO GET AWAY FROM COMICS FOR AWHILE

*I recognized all the people in your cartoon Greg There was at least one in every shop on the tour.. two in Palo Alto. To be quite serious. I think it can all be chalked up to bruised sensibilities These people are so shell-shocked by the entertainment they choose that they are unable to recognize dramatic tension in anything short of imminent or actual death After a while that isn't enough and they need singularly slow & lingering/agonizing/gory/death to feel satisfied Then they need mass death (the hero who kills a dozen "villians" in the space of three pages). I've refrained from addressing this issue for a while, but enough is enough. Cerebus never did kill that much in the pre-High Society stories He will not be killing that much after High Society If you want that stuff, you know where you can find it in full glorious colour on slick paper If you want to be **here** with the grown-ups, you re going to have to learn to use a knife and fork, sit up straight and stop drooling*

Dearest Dave

I have followed the mighty earth pig from inception Ahh for those days when cold steel, quick wit and, a touch of mag c linked Cerebus to some part of primal man's fd Now, Pshaw Pshaw Bureaucracy, wordy discourses and, paper anarchists abound Through it all one point states itself Cerebus the Aardvark, master of swords, champion of uncharted destiny is still a pig in politics So how exciting is victory over a goat

Dave, Cerebus' appeal was at its zenith when he was characterized by a shrewd solid, baseness that made every action and reaction real

Possibly all this ethereal postulating spawns tedium for others as well In any case I've renewed my subscription and wait with antic pation for a well handled blade or defin tive slash

Sworn to Cerebus
Sworn to Fate
Sworn to the Creator

Richard Flanagan
P O Box 404
Bayonne N J , 07002

I'm not sure, but I think this means he wants Cerebus to start shaving

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C'
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N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni,

Can you tell me what effect, if any, does yellow frostonite have on the Moon Roach?

Curiously,

Kelly Benham
31552 West St.,
St. Laguna, CA., 92677

No effect at all, as long as he doesn't eat it.

Dave---

Thanks for the order. It was quite an exciting Christmas present.

While I have your attention, I'd also like to thank you for **Cerebus**. I thoroughly enjoy it and that's something I've never been able to say about any other comic.

Take care of yourself, and stop by Oregon on your next **backward-Stale Tour.**

Greg Wadsworth

Greg is the writer artist of ISMET the dog avenger of which I am now the proud owner of a complete set. Now if someone would only send me a complete set of **Domino Roach** as well as a replacement copy of *#1 which I accidentally left at the CBC in Toronto.*

Cerebus' itching and flaking problem comes back stronger than ever as he sits stunned by the tour de force pyrotechnics of the latest issue of Ismet. The dog avenger laughs behind his back as he eagerly anticipates Cerebus' fall from grace as a fan favourite. "Then I'll be top dog" he chortles (right, Greg?).

Aardvark - Vanaheim

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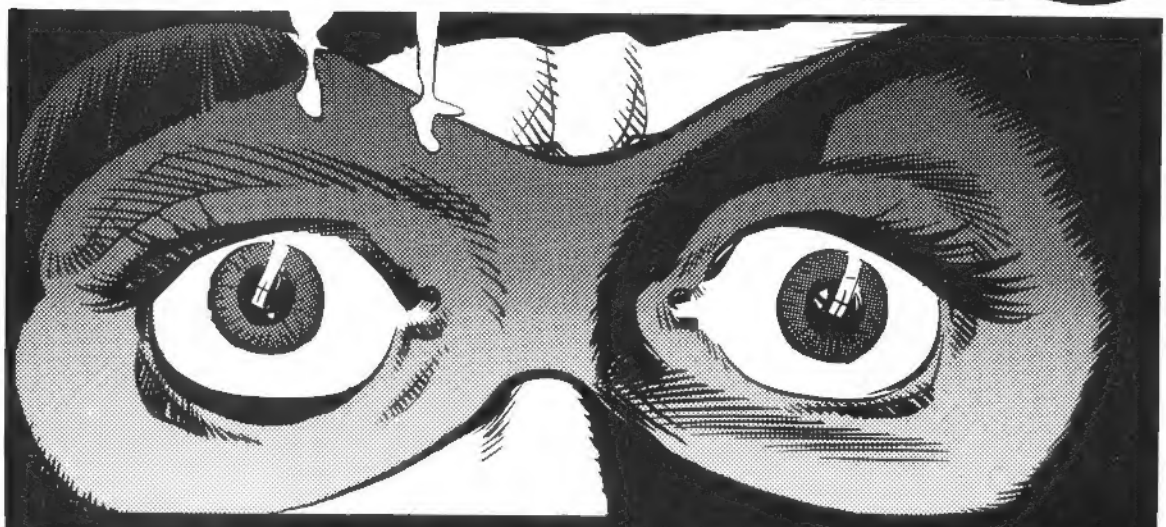

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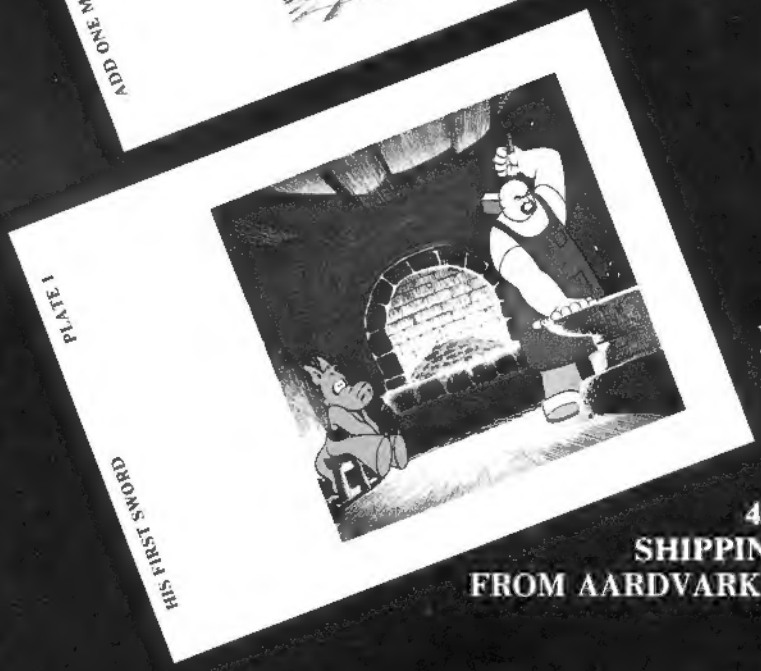

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